

EO-400



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

July 29, 2005

Patricia Hooks
Regional Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Southeast Region
100 Alabama Street, SW
1924 Building
Atlanta, GA 30303

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 34421, HolRail LLC - - Construction and Operation
Exemption - - in Orangeburg and Dorchester Counties, South Carolina - - Notice
of Intent and Draft Scope of Study

Dear: Miss Hooks

On November 13, 2003, HolRail LLC (HolRail) filed a petition with the Surface Transportation Board (the Board or STB) pursuant to 49 USC 10502 for authority to construct and operate a rail line in Orangeburg and Dorchester counties, South Carolina. The proposed project would involve the construction and operation of approximately two miles of new rail line from an existing cement production factory owned by HolRail's parent company, Holcim (US) Inc., located near Holly Hill in Orangeburg County, to the terminus of an existing rail line of the Norfolk Southern Railway Company, located to the south near Giant in Dorchester County.

In April 2005 we submitted a request to your office for information on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed project, as well as the identification of any permits and approvals that may be required. Based on agency responses to this request and ongoing data collection and preliminary analysis efforts, the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) has determined that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is appropriate to evaluate HolRail's proposal. In order to keep you apprised of the project's progress, we are providing you with a copy of the Notice of Intent and draft Scope of Study for the EIS scheduled for publication in the *Federal Register* on August 29, 2005.

All agency comments received in response to the April 2005 request will be fully considered in the preparation of the EIS. However, SEA welcomes any additional comments or concerns your agency may have at this time, as well as any comments on the draft Scope of Study for the EIS. SEA requests that all comments be postmarked by August 31, 2005. (Please note that, at this time, we are conducting scoping by letter rather than holding a scoping meeting.

All comments will be carefully considered and will be available on the Board's website shortly after they are submitted.)

If you wish to submit written comments, please send an original and two copies to:

Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
ATTN: Dave Navecky
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Environmental comments may also be filed electronically on the Board's website, www.stb.dot.gov, by clicking on the "E-FILING" link. Please refer to STB Finance Docket No. 34421 in all correspondence, including e-filings, addressed to the Board.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Winn Frank, Project Manager for Parsons Transportation Group (the Board's independent third party contractor for this proceeding) at 202-775-3382, or Dave Navecky, SEA Project Manager, at 202-565-1593. Thank you for your time and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson".

Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures

Distribution List
Draft Scope of Study



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